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Paris crowds cheer Nixon

Examiner News Service

PARIS — A smiling President Nixon strode down the streets of Paris to the cheers and shouts of "bravo" from Frenchmen and American tourists alike yesterday. He postponed his return home in order to meet with other world leaders gathered to honor the late French President Georges Pompidou.

The President had been scheduled to fly back to Washington almost immediately after the memorial services at Notre Dame Cathedral but announced that he was staying on another day for some face-to-face diplomacy with Asian, European and Soviet officials.

Cardinal Francois Marty called for world leaders to get together in a prayer at the Notre Dame mass, but White House spokesmen had already announced that the President had decided to add a political dimension to his visit.

Nixon talked with British Prime Minister Harold Wilson, West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, interim French President Alain Poher, Italian President Giovanni Leone and Danish Premier Poul Hartling.

Presidential aide Alexander Haig said that Nixon's tax troubles and the Watergate scandal were not discussed and that the leaders found it "inconceivable" that Nixon could be impeached.

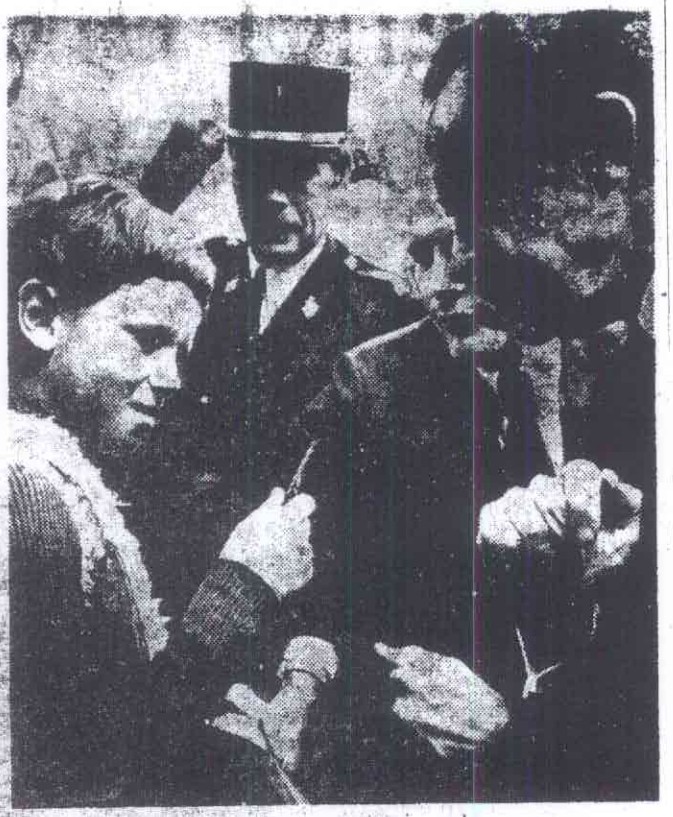
Nixon was expected to meet this morning with Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny and Japanese Premier Kakeui Tanaka.

With Podgorny, Nixon was expected to deal with the arms limitation talks, balanced troop cuts in Europe and his scheduled visit to the Soviet Union this summer.

His talks with Tanaka probably will cover Japan's relationship with NATO as well as bilateral U.S.-Japanese issues.

On several occasions Nixon has indicated an effort would be made to form a new and improved relationship between the United States and Europe, but instead the existing relationship had deteriorated and a hoped-for European visit by Nixon this month to sign a new Atlantic policy document was called off.

Pompidou's death Tuesday gave him an opportunity to visit Europe and talk with some leaders without formally reversing his prior decision to call off the summit trip.



PRESIDENTIAL PEN FOR PARIS BOY
Nixon awaits reaction from Patrick Peartegnazze whom he encountered on Paris street.
—UPI Photo

Ronald L. Ziegler, the Presidential press spokesman, said in response to a question that it was "absolutely not" inappropriate for Nixon to conduct diplomatic business during the mourning period for Pompidou.

After all, Ziegler added, "the President only gets to Europe occasionally."

The White House indicated Nixon's meetings with European leaders occurred almost spontaneously, but other officials said they were arranged at the suggestion of the Fresident.

The major factor in the increasingly difficult relationship between Washington and the European community has been France. Progress is not expected on Atlantic problems involvimg that country until a new French president is elected.

Nixon was one of the few leaders applauded by the crowd [illegible] Notre Dame [illegible] he arrived for the [illegible] after chang[illegible] funeral [illegible] he [illegible]

bassy residence down the block to the Elysee Palace for a 45-minute session with President Poher.

Crowds applauded and whistled in appreciation. Some shouted "Bravo". And everywhere he looked, on the sidewalks of the Faubourg St. Honore or on the balconies of houses, there were people applauding or smiling — perhaps as many as 1000 of them.

The President responded with a happy grin that never left his face all along the 200 yards.

French medical student Daniel Rotenberg, an American flag pin in his lapel, shook Nixon's hand outside the embassy.

"I'm all with you Mr. President," he said.

The President pointed to the flag pin and said, "look, its' the same as mine."

"This is the greatest day in my life," Rotenberg said.

"It's a great day for France," said the President. "God bless you."

Crowds surged around Nixon.

An old French woman in a flowered dress said in French: "We like you very much in France."

"We Americans love French people, Madame," the President said when her words were translated to him.

Down the streets, crowds burst through a security barrier but they were so obviously well intentioned that police did not bother them. Some of them shouted more "Bravos" at the President.

Then Nixon entered the grounds of Elysee Palace, reviewed an honor guard and spent 45 minutes with Poher. When he left, he rode back to the embassy in an official car.

Italian President Giovanni Leone stayed nearly an hour, then British Prime Minister Harold Wilson arrived.

Sitting side by side on a sofa in the upstairs embassy library, Nixon and Wilson discussed elections and the news media in front of newsmen before beginning their private session.

"The beauty of your elections is that they last only a few weeks," Nixon said.

"That is still too long," Wilson replied.

Two steal gems worth $60,000

NEW YORK — Two holdupmen armed with a key and guns stole $60,000 worth of gems from a diamond center merchant yesterday.

The two men unlocked the door to Abraham Lerner's second-floor shop and entered the room where he was working with an assistant. Police said the jewelers were handcuffed and their feet bound with their belts.